

Alabama Dept. of Conservation Marine Resources Division GILL NETTING INFO SHEET - June 2010

* For detailed information refer to AMRD Regulation 220-3-.03

PROHIBITED AREAS

• Any navigational channel marked by a lawfully established system of waterway markers • any man-made canal (including but not limited to the following bays and canals on Dauphin Island: Quivera Bay, Polaris Lagoon, Port Royal Lagoon, Lafitte Bay, Indian Bay, Indian Canal, Buchanan Bay, Columbia Bay, Colony Cove, Spanish Bay, Barcelona Bay, Salt Creek, Government Cut, and Billy Goat Hole) • any river, stream, bayou, or creek • or within 300' of the mouth of any of the following: In Mobile County: Dog River, Theodore Industrial Canal, East Fowl River, Old East Fowl River - (both entrances), West Fowl River, Bayou Coden, Bayou la Batre, and the Mobile Bay entrance to Billy Goat Hole / Government Cut. In Baldwin County: Fly Creek, Fish River, Magnolia River, Graham Bayou, Wolf Creek, Miflin Creek, Roberts Bayou, Palmetto Creek, Soldier's Creek, Perdido Pass, and Little Lagoon Pass *(13) and (6)(a).

Unlawful to use or possess any entangling net or seine that does not have a 2 inch float or cork every 5 feet, or a 6 inch buoy every 50 feet along the float line *(21).

Any entangling net greater than 80 meshes in depth is prohibited north of this line. *(10).

Closed from January 1 through Labor Day *(12).

Unlawful to possess a gill net in the waters of the Gulf including Pelican Bay from March 15 through Labor Day from 12 noon each Friday through 7PM each Sunday. (2) (3)(a)(d)(e)

West End of Dauphin Island west of longitude 88°11.500' open to use of gill nets 24 hours per day except for Weekend closures. (7)(a) (3) (c)(e).

From 12:01 am on the day after Labor Day, Gulf waters including Pelican Bay, out to 3 miles, west of Old Little Lagoon Pass (in Mobile and Baldwin counties) open 24 hours a day through March 14 - then, from March 15 through Labor Day open from Gulf shoreline out to 1/4 mile 6:00 pm to 6:00 am, except for weekend closures. (7)(a) (3)(c)(d).

Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division jurisdiction.

All gill and trammel nets operated in Alabama waters under the jurisdiction of Marine Resources Division **must be constantly attended by person licensed or permitted to operate net** *(16).

Menhaden Requirements

The mesh size for commercial gill and trammel nets used for taking menhaden shall be one and one-quarter (1 1/4") inches knot to knot or larger *(5)(b).

PIERS - ARTIFICIAL REEFS

Use of any type of entanglement net is prohibited **within 300'** of any pier, marina, boat launching ramp or any of the following "relict" piers: **Zundel's Pier, Battles Wharf, Old Daphne Steamship and Quarantine Pier**, or **within 300'** of the artificial reef areas established and marked by the Marine Resources Division. (14)

Inside Waters Mesh Size Restriction

Minimum mesh size for inside waters used to take fish other than menhaden shall be 1 1/2 inches knot to knot. (5)(a)

Gulf Mesh Size Restrictions

- Minimum mesh size used to take mullet is 2 inches knot to knot Oct. 24 - Dec. 31.
- Minimum mesh size used to take other fish is 1 1/2 inches knot to knot.
- Possession of mullet and a gill net with a mesh size less than 2 inches knot to knot on board a boat from Oct. 24 - Dec. 31 is prohibited. (7) (a)

All Gulf waters closed to the use of recreational gill nets (7)(a) (6).
A recreational gill net shall not be possessed more than 300 feet from the shore (19)(a).

Oct. 24 - Dec. 31. Closed to set nets in waters of Bon Secour Bay south of GIWW from Oyster Bay west to the last GIWW marker - and from that point southwestward to the north-western tip of the Fort Morgan peninsula. This area is open to "strike nets" only during this period. *(11).

Gulf waters from Old Little Lagoon Pass east to Florida line closed from 12:01 am, May 15 through Labor Day (7)(a), (3)(a)(b)

98-GF - 2 (2) (b) All commercial fishing operations, as well as recreational netting operations, and all gear used in any of such operations, in state jurisdictional waters south of Interstate 10 eastbound lanes (except that portion of Interstate 10 which lies north of U. S. Highway 90 [Battleship Pky.] in which case the line follows the Battleship Pky.) shall be subject to those laws, rules and regulations of the Marine Resources Division of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

ROE MULLET / SPANISH MACKEREL PERMIT

- Required when using a mesh size of **two (2")** inches knot to knot or larger to take **any fish** during the period of **Oct. 24 - Dec. 31**.
- Required for any person in possession of **mullet** while possessing, using, or attempting to use any commercial gill net or trammel net during the period of **Oct. 24 - Dec. 31** *(2).
- Required year-round for any person possessing Spanish mackerel while possessing, using, or attempting to use any commercial gill net, trammel net or other entangling net. *(3).

CAST NETTING - SNAGGING

Possession of more than **25** mullet aboard any vessel engaged in cast netting or snagging in waters **closed to gill netting** is prohibited *(17).

Jan. 1 through Labor Day, closed fishing season for Fla. pompano by use of any net. Allowed incidental by-catch of pompano of no more than 5% by weight of other fishes taken (220-3-.60).

